



Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative

Work Group Co-Chair Orientation May 5, 2004

Members Present: Kelly Alexander, Patti Bokony, Bruce Cohen, Kara Cooper, Jackie Gorton, Martha Hiett, Janie Huddleston, Barbara Gilkey, Tim Lampe, Martha Reeder, Sandra Reifeiss, Kathy Stegall, Carolene Thornton, Susan Underwood, Rosemary Withers

Agenda Item #1: Introductions

Discussion: Kathy Stegall called the meeting to order and began introductions. Martha Reeder asked each member to introduce themselves and state their role in the AECCS Initiative.

Result: The following representatives of each work group were present:

- Social Emotional Health Co-chairs Patti Bokony and Bruce Cohen, both from the UAMS Department of Psychiatry
- Early Care & Education Co-Chair Sandra Reifeiss from Arkansas Dept. of Education/Special Education (Co-chair Vicki Shelby was unable to be attend)
- Parent Education Co-chairs Barbara Gilkey from Arkansas HIPPY and Carolene Thornton from the Northwest Arkansas Child Care Resource Center
- Medical Homes Co-chair Kara Cooper from the Arkansas Dept. of Health (Co-chair Lynn Mouden was unable to attend)
- Family Support Co-chairs Jackie Gorton from Arkansas Dept. of Health and Susan Underwood from Arkansas Dept. of Education

Agenda Item #2 - Partnership Roles of DHS and ADH	
<p>Discussion: Martha Hiatt from the Arkansas Dept. of Health stated the strong support of ADH to the AECCS Initiative. She expressed that ADH intends to have strong leadership roles in the initiative as evidenced by participation at every level of the infrastructure.</p> <p>Janie Huddleston shared that she considers this initiative to be one of the most exciting things to happen for early childhood concerns. She encouraged the co-chairs to pursue collaboration across agencies and programs in order to maximize efforts of their work. She pointed to the effective partnerships that have been established for early childhood in recent years.</p>	<p>Result: The ADH is serving as the fiscal agent for the AECCS Initiative. Chairs for Medical Homes and Family Support have come from ADH. ADH has also made recommendations for additional staff to serve on individual work groups. Martha Hiatt, Dr. Richard Nugent, and Dr. Faye Boozman will serve on the Interagency Team.</p> <p>DHS has demonstrated complete support of the AECCS Initiative in taking the lead as programmatic agent. Mr. Knickrehm, Janie Huddleston and Tonya Russell will serve on the Interagency Team. Additional staff will be represented on all of the work groups.</p>
Agenda Item #3 - Overview and Timelines	
<p>Discussion: Martha Reeder presented an overview of the AECCS Initiative, showing how indicators established by the School Readiness Indicators Initiative are to be used to help guide the work of each group.</p> <p>Timelines for the next few months were discussed.</p>	<p>Results: A copy of the SRI Initiative publication "Getting Ready For School" was shared with the group.</p> <p>The following recommendations were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• work group staffing should be completed as soon as possible, using names from referrals and additional members as determined• initial work group meeting should occur early in June (or before), followed up within 3-4 weeks by a

(Agenda Item #3 cont.)	<p>second meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Steering Committee will have its initial meeting in mid-July • the Interagency Team will meet at the end of July or the beginning of August • towards the end of August, all five work groups will meet together for a day-long event.
<p>Tasks: Work group Co-chairs are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work together to staff their group • communicate with Martha Reeder concerning the scheduling of work group meetings, reporting of minutes, etc. • study the publication, "Getting Ready For School" and identify indicators that have direct bearing on their work <p>Martha will, in return:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help with compiling lists for work groups • disseminate information to work groups as needed • serve as reference point for communication between work groups 	
Agenda Item #4 - Study Circles	
<p>Discussion: Heather Gage, Diane Vibhakar, and Connie Whitfield were present to represent the work of Study Circles. Diane offered a presentation that explained the structure of Study Circles. She then described the curriculum that she is writing to address early childhood issues. This curriculum will be delivered in September and results from these Study Circles will be available to the work groups in October.</p>	<p>Results: Co-chairs offered suggestions about recruiting coordinators and sites for the delivery of Study Circles. Jackie Gorton (ADH) suggested that perhaps the Healthy Hometown Coordinators might be of help. She stated that there are 50+ sites. Others agreed that this would increase state-wide coverage for delivery of the Early Childhood Study Circles.</p> <p>Bruce Cohen suggested that we might consider re-formatting the delivery of Study Circles to include two groups for Session #1, that could then either be reduced to one group for Session #2, or continued as two groups, depending on the need. He also introduced the idea that incentives might enhance local participation, especially with regard to child care.</p>

Tasks: Diane Vibhakar asked Co-chairs to examine the curriculum that she is writing (which she will send by email) for possible clarifications before it is complete.

Jackie Gorton offered to help Connie Whitfield in enlisting Healthy Hometown participation by sending the appropriate contact information.

Agenda Item #5 - Work Group Brainstorming

Discussion: Co-chairs were given individual time to work on their referral lists and begin developing other ideas for staffing the groups.

Results: Co-chairs expressed concern about conflicts in personnel for various groups. There is a need for information to be shared between all five work groups to facilitate the staffing of groups.

Tasks: Martha Reeder will:

- send out a comprehensive list of referrals to all work group chairs, to avoid conflict as much as possible
- send electronic version of the complete AECCS introductory information to all Co-chairs, to be used when contacting possible work group members

Agenda for next meeting of Co-Chairs:

A meeting will be scheduled for mid-July. This will be the first meeting of the Steering Committee. In addition to Co-chairs, the meeting will include representatives from each work group and agency designees. This meeting will be scheduled as soon as all five work groups have their initial meeting.
